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Lesson Eight- Ali Ibn Abi Talib (R.A.)

- Ali (R.A.) was born to Fatima bint Asad and Abu Talib
- He was 8 years old when Rasullullah (ﷺ) gained prophethood
- He married Fatima (R.A.) in 2 A.H.
- She gave birth to Hasan, Husayn, Zainab al Kubra, Umm Kulthum al Kubra
- He faced a time of chaos and disunity- not a single day of his caliphate was without challenge
- Many major Sahaba didn't pledge allegiance to him
- Many were upset that he didn't work first to avenge the murder of Uthman (R.A.)
- He was appointed on 25th of Dhul Hijjah in 35 A.H.
- Ali (R.A.) felt that two individuals were crucial for support: Talhah Ibn Ubaidullah (R.A.) and Zubayr Ibn Awwam (R.A.)
- Initially, Aisha (R.A.), Talhah (R.A.) and Zubayr (R.A.) were against the caliphate of Ali (R.A.) because they felt he should have dealt with the murders of Uthman (R.A.) first rather than establishing his caliphate
- Muawiyah (R.A.) was the governor of Syria at the time and he became the greatest opponent of Ali (R.A.)
- Ali (R.A.) prepared his forces to meet Muawiyah (R.A.)'s forces
- Supporters of Aisha (R.A.): some were from Basra, others from Kufa as well as Banu Ummayya
- There were many supporters of Aisha (R.A.), Talhah (R.A.) and Zubayr (R.A.) and this pained Ali (R.A.) very much
- He sent a letter to the people of Kufa asking them for their support
- Governor of Kufa at the time was Abu Musa Al Ashari- felt that people shouldn't get involved in these tribulations
- Ali (R.A.) tried to consolidate matters peacefully through envoys and mediators, but without success
- The two armies met and the fighting began after the followers of Abdullah Ibn Saba began attacking randomly in the darkness
- Eventually the Basrans were defeated by the Kufans
- After this, Aisha (R.A.), Talhah (R.A.) and Zubayr (R.A.) made peace with Ali (R.A.) and their disagreements were put to rest
- Muawiyah (R.A.) felt that the matter still wasn't settled

- Ali (R.A.) and Muawiyah (R.A.) sent envoys to each other for a few days- one of the envoys slandered Muawiyah (R.A.) and this eventually lead to war
- 9th Safar both armies met and fought fiercely into the night
- By 10th Safar Muawiyah (R.A.)'s army begins to weaken
- Ali (R.A.) and Muawiyah (R.A.) decide to send representatives from their own sides to put together an agreement according to the book of Allah.
- Muawiyah (R.A.)'s supporters chose Amr Ibn al-'As (R.A.) as their representative and Ali (R.A.)'s supporters chose Abu Musa Al-Ashari
- At this time, a group of extremists emerged (khawarij) who took the Qur'an very literally
- Abu Musa eventually suggested to Amr Ibn al-'As (R.A.) that they should remove both Muawiyah (R.A.) and Ali (R.A.) as leaders and instead appoint Abdullah Ibn Umar (R.A.) as the leader
- Amr Ibn al-'As didn't agree with Abdullah Ibn Umar (R.A.) as a choice, but he wrote down the removal of Muawiyah (R.A.) and Ali (R.A.) into the preceedings, and this was signed and sealed by both him and Abu Musa.
- This was a massive step and mistake because this agreement was to be the final decision for all the Muslims
- This led to further disagreements and more battled ensued
- The khawarij began to incite violence and cause corruption
- Ali (R.A.)'s power was diminishing day by day and everytime he extinguished one source of corruption, another rebellion would pop up
- Meanwhile, Muawiyah (R.A.) became firmly established in Sham and his power eventually also took hold of Egypt, Yemen and Hijaz
- Only Iraq (Basra & Kufa) and the surrounding Persian lands remained loyal to the pledge of Ali (R.A.)
- On Friday 7th Ramadan 40 A.H. while Ali (R.A.) was calling people to salah, he was struck and killed by a khawarij named Abdur Rahman Ibn Muljim
- Ali (R.A.)'s caliphate had lasted for 4 years, 7 months and a few days